



**America's Voices on Border Security**  
*Excerpts from Today's House Subcommittee Hearing on "Fencing the Border"*

The Homeland Security Subcommittee on Economic Security, Infrastructure Protection and Cybersecurity and the Government Reform Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy, and Human Resources held a joint hearing on Thursday, July 20<sup>th</sup>. The "Fencing the Border: Construction Options and Strategic Placement" hearing reviewed how existing fencing has impacted criminal activity along the Nation's borders and how various fencing proposals would address the country's border security needs. Below are excerpts from the prepared testimony of some of the witnesses who are testifying.

**Mr. Kevin Stevens, Senior Associate Chief**  
**Office of Border Patrol, U.S. Customs and Border Protection**

"Our immigration system is broken. Every day, thousands of people try to enter our country illegally."

"As of July 18, there are over 3,800 National Guard troops on duty for Operation Jump Start and in the four Southwest Border States. These troops are making a difference."

"National Guard support will be an immediate, short-term measure that allows DHS to increase our deterrence and border security capabilities, while DHS trains additional Border Patrol agents and implements the Secure Border Initiative (SBI), which is a broad, multi-year initiative that looks at all aspects of the problem across the board -- deterrence, detection, apprehension, detention, and removal. "

"There is no stretch of border in the United States that can be considered completely inaccessible or lacking in the potential to provide an entry point for a terrorist or terrorist weapon. Stretches of border that in the past were thought to be impenetrable, or at least highly unlikely locations for entry into the United

States, have in recent years, become active illegal entry corridors as other routes have been made less accessible to smugglers.”

“We recognize the challenges that lie ahead. Our goal is nothing less than to gain, maintain, and expand operational control of our Nation’s borders through the right mix of personnel, technology, and tactical infrastructure.”

**Mr. T.J. Bonner, President**  
**National Border Patrol Council**

“Every year, Border Patrol agents apprehend more than one million illegal aliens and seize more than one million pounds of marijuana and other illegal drugs. Front-line agents estimate that for every person they apprehend, two or three manage to slip by them, and also acknowledge that they only seize a fraction of the drugs being smuggled across the border.”

“Barriers can be extremely effective in preventing vehicles from driving across the border between designated Ports of Entry. Such vehicles often contain large quantities of illegal drugs, and their drivers generally speed away from law enforcement officers when they are encountered.”

“Hundreds of illegal aliens walk around existing fencing every day as they cross our borders.”

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